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MEXICO.

Report from Vera Cruz—Visit to Progreso.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *February 19, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that I arrived yesterday in Vera Cruz and resumed duties.

On the trip over from Havana I stopped in Progreso and Merida for a day.

* * * * * * *

I talked with 1 dentist, 1 doctor, and several laymen about the epidemic of smallpox that is at present prevalent in Merida, and the consensus of opinion is that there are more than 300 cases in the city.

I was unable to see the disinfection plant and unable to learn anything about the disinfection of outgoing baggage. * * *

The reports of yellow fever were very contradictory, and it is impossible to deduct anything from the conflicting testimony.

Dr. Glennan asked me to write him anything about Merida and Progreso that would be of interest to him, so I will convey to him the substance of this letter.

As soon as possible I will send a report upon the prevalence of smallpox and yellow fever in this port, and also report upon the prevalence of influenza, as per request of circular letter of January 18.

Respectfully, S. H. HODGSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Smallpox in Merida, Yucatan.

HAVANA, CUBA, *February 26, 1901.*

SIR: Referring to my cable of February 25, I have the honor to state for your information that smallpox has been prevailing to a large extent at Merida, Yucatan.

At first this information came through rumor. Since then, I have received a communication from Acting Assistant Surgeon Hodgson, who passed through Progreso on his way to Vera Cruz during his vacation, stating that he had learned that there were some 300 cases of smallpox in that vicinity. Yesterday the sanitary department of this city received an anonymous communication stating the widespread prevalence of the disease in Merida and defining its character "malignant black smallpox." This communication was forwarded to me by the sanitary department for my information. Although no comments were made, still I am inclined to think that the Department was greatly worried over the situation, as the Ward Line steamers bring passengers from that port. * * * The distance between Progreso and Havana is so short that only a small portion of the period of incubation is covered during the time of travel, and a passenger for New York is very liable to show the disease before his arrival at New York and after leaving Havana. The Bureau can readily understand the danger both to New York and Havana. Hence my telegram.

NOTE.—Acting Asst. Surg. S. H. Hodgson was ordered March 2 to proceed to Merida for duty.

Respectfully, A. H. GLENNAN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,
Chief Quarantine Officer for the Island of Cuba.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.